



State of Louisiana

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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PRESS RELEASE

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STATE OF LOUISIANA RECOGNIZED FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

BATON ROUGE (November 16, 2010) – The Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LA BEOC) was recently touted as a model example for other states for its public-private partnership with the business community when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) highlighted the state's plan on its website. The LA BEOC is a partnership between the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Louisiana Economic Development (LED), National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT), Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI), and Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI).

In June, the partnering agencies opened the doors to the new LA BEOC at the south campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The LA BEOC is the state's first emergency operations center dedicated to disaster preparedness, response and recovery for businesses and the first in the nation to have a dedicated facility that is interconnected to its state emergency operations center. The purpose of the LA BEOC is to better communicate with Louisiana business and industry before, during and after a disaster, utilize business resources to address emergency management challenges when more economic and efficient, and to assist the state in determining economic impact from disasters and begin the recovery process. The LA BEOC is made up of members from Louisiana's public, private and non-profit sectors.

"The LA-BEOC significantly improves communication and coordination with Louisiana businesses in times of disaster while assisting in bringing communities back on line as soon as possible. The program also assists in making Louisiana businesses more resilient," said GOHSEP Director Mark Cooper. He added, "We are proud Louisiana's public-private partnership has been recognized as a national 'best practice' model. Other states can learn from Louisiana's experiences with disasters and how we have worked

with the business community to operate more efficiently in order to recover more quickly and allow our residents to get back to normal as fast as possible.”

“Louisiana's business community needs to be equipped with the information, tools and support to rebound quickly from all types of emergency situations, which is why we helped create the LA BEOC,” said Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Stephen Moret. “The LA BEOC is helping us streamline response efforts for the business community, quickly assess economic impacts and effectively communicate with our existing businesses before, during and after future disaster situations. In turn, the LA BEOC will help us quickly and effectively address the physical damage, disruption of operations and financial loss suffered by our businesses.”

“This recognition by FEMA is a testament to the work and collaboration of the LA BEOC partners,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Booth, Executive Director of the LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute. “Collaboration between the public and private sectors is fundamental to the success of the LA BEOC, and a prime goal of our institute. It’s an honor to be part of this team and build a more resilient community and business environment in Louisiana.”

And Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, Executive Director of the NIMSAT Institute, added, “Public-private partnership research is part of our core mission at the NIMSAT Institute. We are proud to be a contributing partner of the LA BEOC and continue to strengthen these relationships for a more resilient Louisiana.”

Louisiana’s public-private partnership plan, along with plans from eight other states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, Utah and Washington), can be viewed on the FEMA’s website: <http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/ppp.shtm>.

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